

BOOK REVIEW

LEPIDOPTERA: HESPERIIDAE. NOTES ON SPECIES-GROUP NAMES, by Charles A. Bridges. Urbana, Illinois, publ. by the author: ii + I.129 + II.41 + III.62 + IV.30 + V.13 pp. Price: \$35.00 (available from author: 502 W. Main St., Apt. 120, Urbana, IL 61801).

This is an impressive compendium of the known literature on the skipper butterflies of the world. There is a brief Introduction, 129 pages of Species-group Names of Hesperidae, a 41-page Index of Genera with their included species, an Index of Authors and Bibliography (62 pages), a 30-page Bibliography and a 16-page Index to Journals and Serials. All of these are very useful to the specialist, and it certainly gives an idea of the library that needs to be available for systematic work on a worldwide basis.

Citations for the names are given in Section I, along with type localities and sites of deposition of the type specimens, where these data are known, using a similar format to that used by F. M. Brown and myself in our *Catalogue/Checklist* but much more compact. The type localities are abbreviated, however. It is interesting that on page I.1 the statement is made that the arrangement is based entirely on bibliographic references; that no specimens have been examined and that no new names are introduced. Therein, to some users, is a problem with this volume: but it is not the province of a bibliographic compilation to pass such judgments. One has a right, however, to expect that the bibliographic citations have been checked for their accuracy. Regrettably, such is not always the case in this work. I have closely examined only those citations that impinge on my own work and find that there are definite misstatements in the book.

On page I.2 the citation for *Thorybes aemilea* (Skinner) is given as an incorrect subsequent spelling (ISS) of *aemilia*, but examination of Skinner's original description shows that the proper spelling is indeed "*aemilea*." The *aemilia* spelling apparently dates from Holland's *Butterfly Book* in 1898, which was copied by Evans in his *Catalogue*. There was at least one ISS in the Miller and Brown *Catalogue/Checklist* that Bridges did not catch: Parker described *Hesperia powesheik* from Grinnell, Iowa in 1870. Grinnell is in Poweshiek county, and we spelled the species name the same as the county name; I have been unable to find that *lapsus* elsewhere, and we must be blamed for it.

Some nomenclatorial errors are also promulgated in this book. For example, on page I.60 *Hesperia julianus* Turton, 1802 is listed under "d" (available, invalid, unused), whereas, *H. julianus* Latreille, [1824] is listed right below it as "c" (available, valid synonym). Clearly, Latreille created an invalid junior homonym, whereas, Turton's name is indeed available; so, the designations on these two names should be reversed. Elsewhere (page I.15), my subspecies *benitoensis* is listed as in the genus *Unkana*, an Indo-Malayan genus. My insect was named in the African genus *Ceratrachia*, and the entire paper was devoted to African skippers. The name in question was applied to a subspecies of *Ceratrachia flava* (Hewitson), rather than *Unkana flava* Evans from India. *C. flava* and several of its subspecies are mentioned in II.8, and the mixup here is puzzling.

These complaints are not made to diminish from the book's great value. They are more to alert workers to the necessity of checking original sources in cases of a nomenclatorial problem. Secondary sources (of which this book is one) should be used as indications of **where** to find original data and not considered to be the data themselves. In this regard, and with the above caveats, I consider this book to be one of the most significant weapons in the hesperiid systematist's arsenal. Bridges has written me that he intends a revised edition incorporating the corrections that he receives from other workers. This work is a great deal better on names than is the average museum card catalogue, even in its present form, and workers on groups other than the skippers can only hope that Bridges will favor us with volumes on other families in the near future (he is already at work on the Lycaenidae). If the reader has any taxonomic interest in skippers, he/she **must** have this volume. \$35.00 is cheap for the "wisdom of the ages" in hesperiid taxonomy.